

While his legislative accomplishments are substantial, BOB may be best remembered for the manner in which he achieved them. Ever the southern gentleman, BOB CLEMENT has defined comity during an increasingly partisan era. He worked well across the aisle and I hope we can keep his collegial spirit alive despite his absence. In this way, BOB has truly left his mark on this institution, and it is without doubt a better place for his having been here.

Mr. Speaker, I know all of our colleagues will join me in thanking BOB CLEMENT for his friendship and his dedicated service to the United States of America. Knowing BOB, his long, exemplary career will not end here. I look forward to the next chapter.

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HERB YASSKY

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, during the 106th Congress, the following statement was submitted for entry into the RECORD but was inadvertently lost. It is imperative that I re-submit this tribute to an outstanding American Point-of-Light.

HERB YASSKY: A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS

Herb Yassky sometimes seems to be climbing perpetually uphill with his efforts to bring medical supplies and equipment to Haiti and other underdeveloped countries. The problems multiply and the disappointments mushroom but Herb toils on in his almost singlehanded effort. He refuses to surrender when a container of hospital supplies is stuck on the docks of Port-au-Prince because there is no money to pay for transportation and the added cost of storage. Because he is quietly stubborn and intensely compassionate about his mission, Herb finds a way to deliver his vitally needed goods. In his spare time, as a volunteer, Herb has sent more than fourteen forty-foot containers of supplies to not-for-profit institutions overseas. This represents just one of many causes in the mosaic of Herb Yassky's Lifetime Struggle and Achievement.

A New Yorker by birth, Herb Yassky attended Stuyvesant High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University, studied Business Administration at Columbia University and became an executive in the electronics industry. He has served on the Board of the Shorefront YMYWHA, the Board of Brooklyn Jewish Hospital and many civic organizations. Presently he serves as a Trustee of the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center and as President of the Rutland Nursing Home. Joining him in his generous contributions to the community is his wife, Paula.

Moved by the plight of poverty in Haiti, as well as other third world nations, Mr. Yassky founded "Medical Aid for Haiti" and for years worked closely with the New York Consul General, Phillipe Wilson Desir. The two of them teamed up for radio and television programs to make the public aware of the vital need for help in Haiti.

Herb Yassky presently serves as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Health Care Advisory Committee where he works with Congressman Owens to expand his quest for adequate health care for all. Under Herb's leadership the hospitals of the Central Brooklyn Medical Complex-Kingsbrook,

Kingsboro, Kings County, Brookdale and SUNY Downstate Medical Center have collectively become an important developable site in the Brooklyn Federal Empowerment Zone Plan. With Owens, Herb shares the dream of a Clarkson Avenue area where the threat of homeless shelters and detention centers will cease to exist because all available space is occupied by health care related organizations. Facilities for computer related health occupations training; a high school for health care careers; a medical supply shopping mall; offices for doctors and therapists; these are a few of the dreams that may be turned into brick and mortar realities. Yassky is an advocate and a planner who attends to the details and makes great things happen.

Because he is a tireless Champion for Health Care and Human Life, the people of Central Brooklyn are proud to salute Herb Yassky for his Lifetime Struggle and Achievement.

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CONGRATULATING THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*November 14, 2002*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, the Southwest Georgia Regional Public Library System, the sole library provider for the 44,000 residents of Decatur, Miller and Seminole counties, is a recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services, which is recognized as the highest honor that can be earned for community service by the nation's 122,000 libraries and 15,000 museums.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which sponsors the award program, could not have made a more worthy choice.

The Southwest Georgia Regional System, often partnering with other community organizations, reaches out in innovative ways to serve a widely dispersed population in the cities and rural areas it serves, including initiatives to raise the educational levels of low-income families. The system sponsors literacy programs, provides full access to the World Wide Web, and maintains close, ongoing support for schools and social service organizations. Utilizing a state-of-the-art bookmobile, the system makes books available to schools, nursing homes, and community centers. It provides special services for the handicapped. It sponsors historic projects and programs. In many different ways, it is helping raise the quality of life throughout a widespread area of southwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the people who make the Southwest Georgia Regional Library System one of the country's very best.

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THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Community of Oak

Park, Illinois. I take great pride in expressing my delight and heart felt congratulations as we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Village of Oak Park.

Historically, Oak Park is a community in the Chicago area that has made significant contributions to diversity and is a model for other emerging American communities. Since the 1960's Oak Parkers have seriously planned for the evolution and development of their community. The Village of Oak Park has refused to maintain itself as a status quo neighborhood in the Chicago area. The integration of black and white residents has been a key component in the development of this unique neighborhoods. As the community began to change, the Village government took action by enacting an Open Housing Ordinance in 1968, a statement supporting integrated housing. In 1973 Village Trustees created a policy statement, "Maintaining Diversity in Oak Park." These policies created the building blocks for a community now designated an "All American City."

Revolutionary action was taken by the Village and initiated during a time when visible racial transformation was needed throughout Chicago neighborhoods. Based on the initiatives of the Village of Oak Park, it has become the home of people from various occupations, professions, ages, and income levels.

Oak Park has produced a number of notable people who have made significant contributions to our world in their receptive fields of endeavor. To name just a few, in literature, Ernest Hemingway, and Carol Shields who is one of the finalists for the Man Booker Prize for literature this year. Percy Lavon Julian, an African American Research Chemist whose research led to discoveries in drug manufacturing, hormones, vitamins, amino acids, paint, and paper, Carl Rogers in psychotherapy, other of its better known have been Edgar Rice Burroughs of Tarzan fame, residents are Ray Kroc in fast food restaurants, and Frank Lloyd Wright an architectural genius, who has designed many of the world's most famous structures and buildings, many of which are a part of Oak Park's visible legacy. There is great need to maintain and commemorate the cultural richness and diversity of this unique village.

The Gale Research Center of the Historical Society is a research center, which is a repository of photos, publication, and artifacts that highlight the community's history. Complimented by this are exhibits and special programs that assist in public education. Oak Park can proudly boasts of the Oak Forest River Forest Public H.S. and Fenwick H.S. an outstanding Catholic Parochial School. Centennial celebrations mark the communities effort to proclaim and instill the historical legacy of the Village of Oak Park. The advocacy of community members has been instrumental in nurturing the excellence of Oak Park and in helping to shape public policy. There is virtually no issue that I don't hear from someone in Oak Park about. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Village of Oak Park is one of the most fascinating communities in our country and I commend them as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.